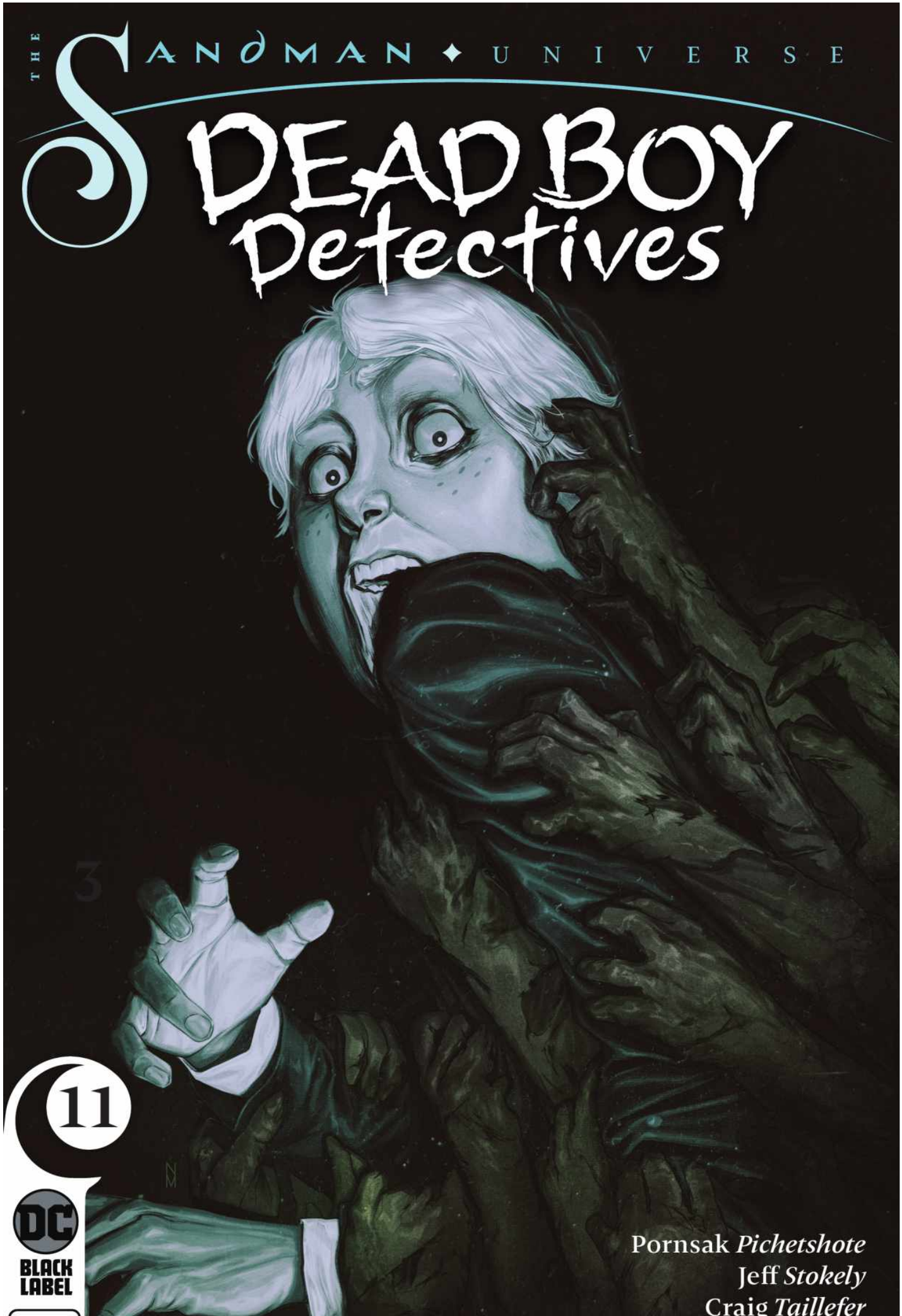
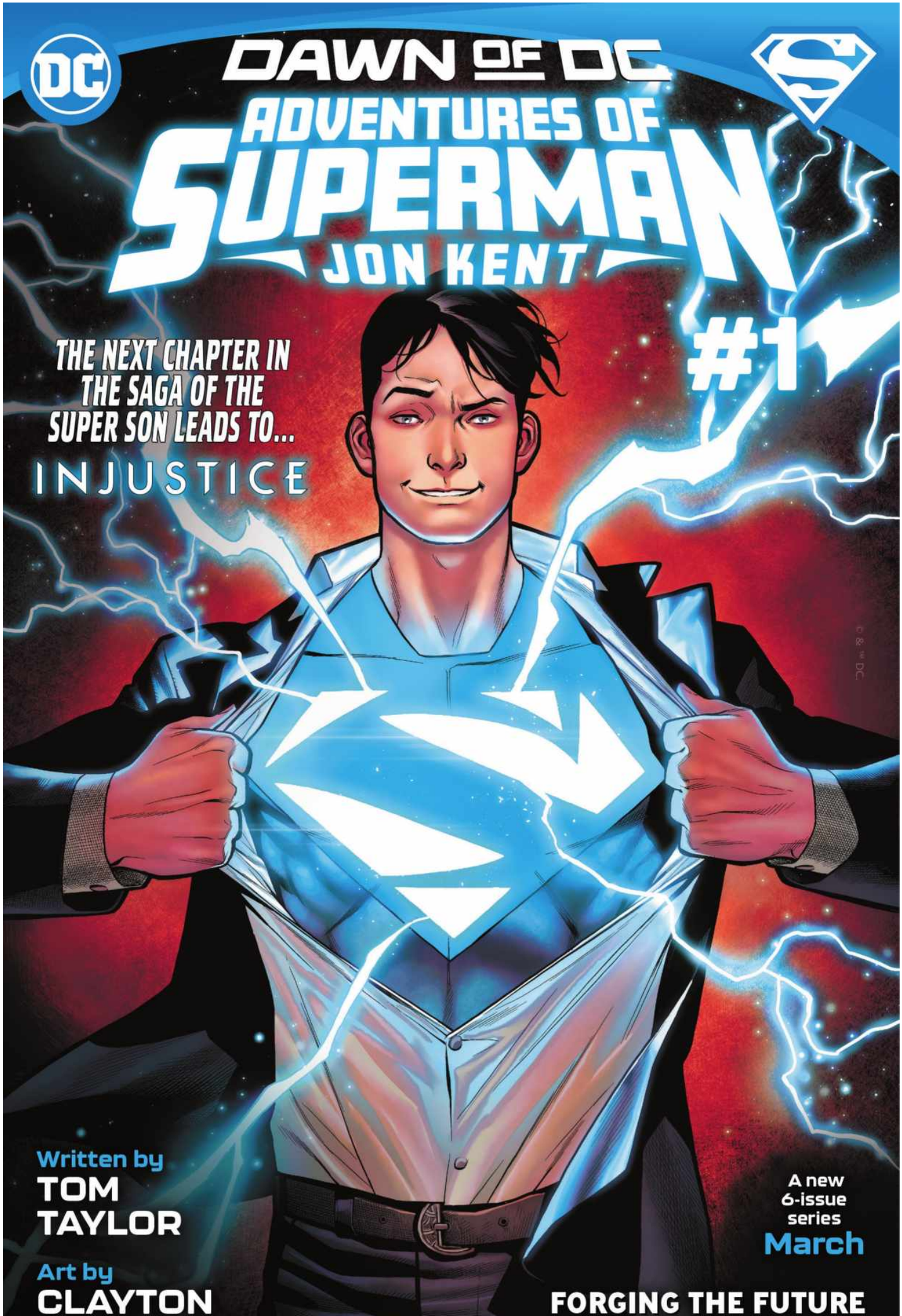
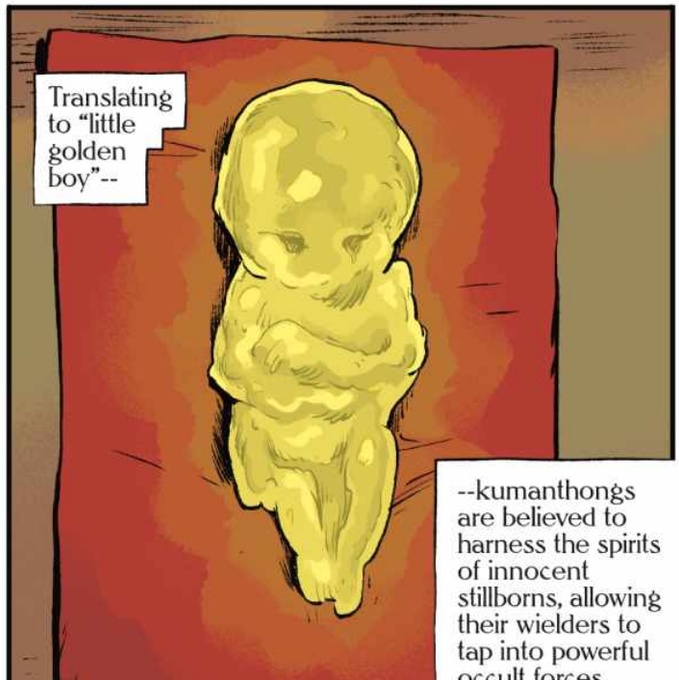
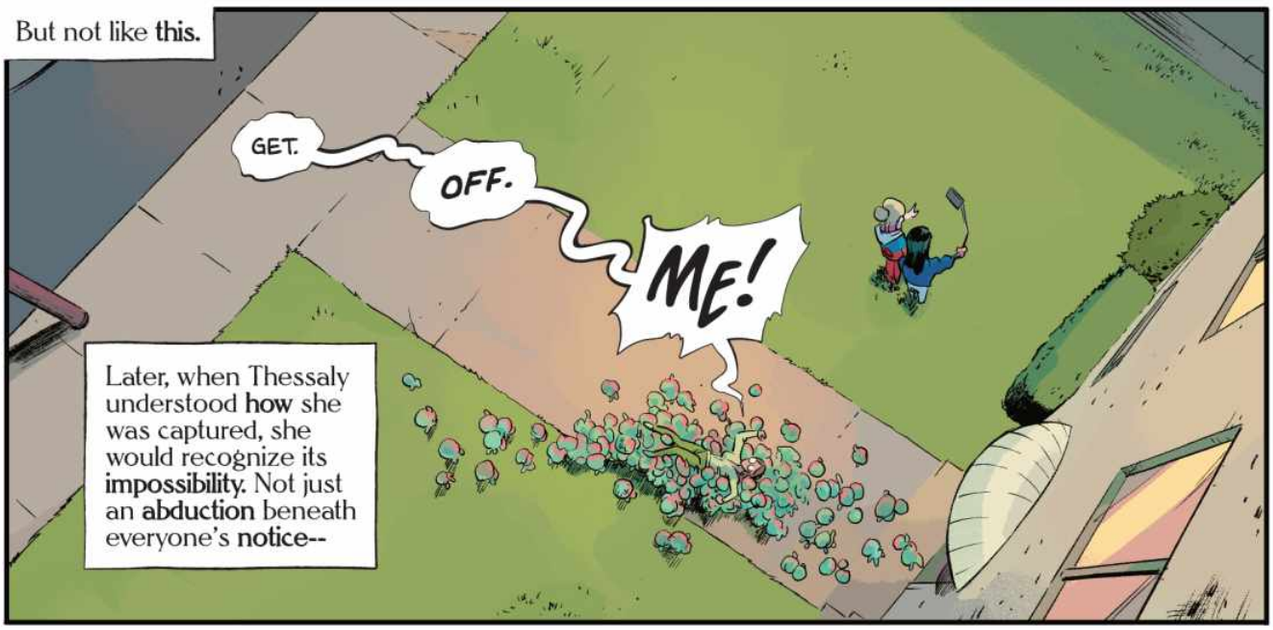
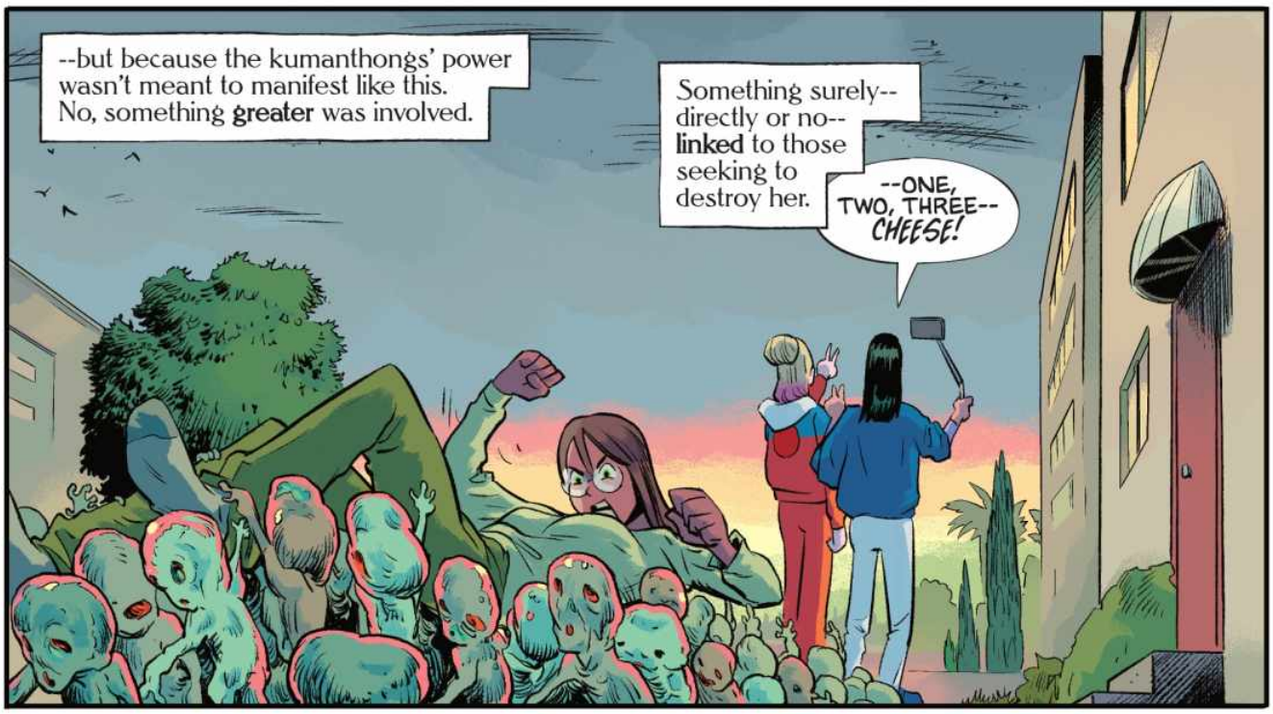

THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE
DEAD BOY Detectives
11
DC
BLACK LABEL
Pornsak Pichetshote
Jeff Stokely
Craig Taillefer


DAWN OF DC
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
JON KENT
#1
THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THE SAGA OF THE SUPER SON LEADS TO...
INJUSTICE
Written by
TOM TAYLOR
Art by
CLAYTON
A new 6-issue series
March
FORGING THE FUTURE

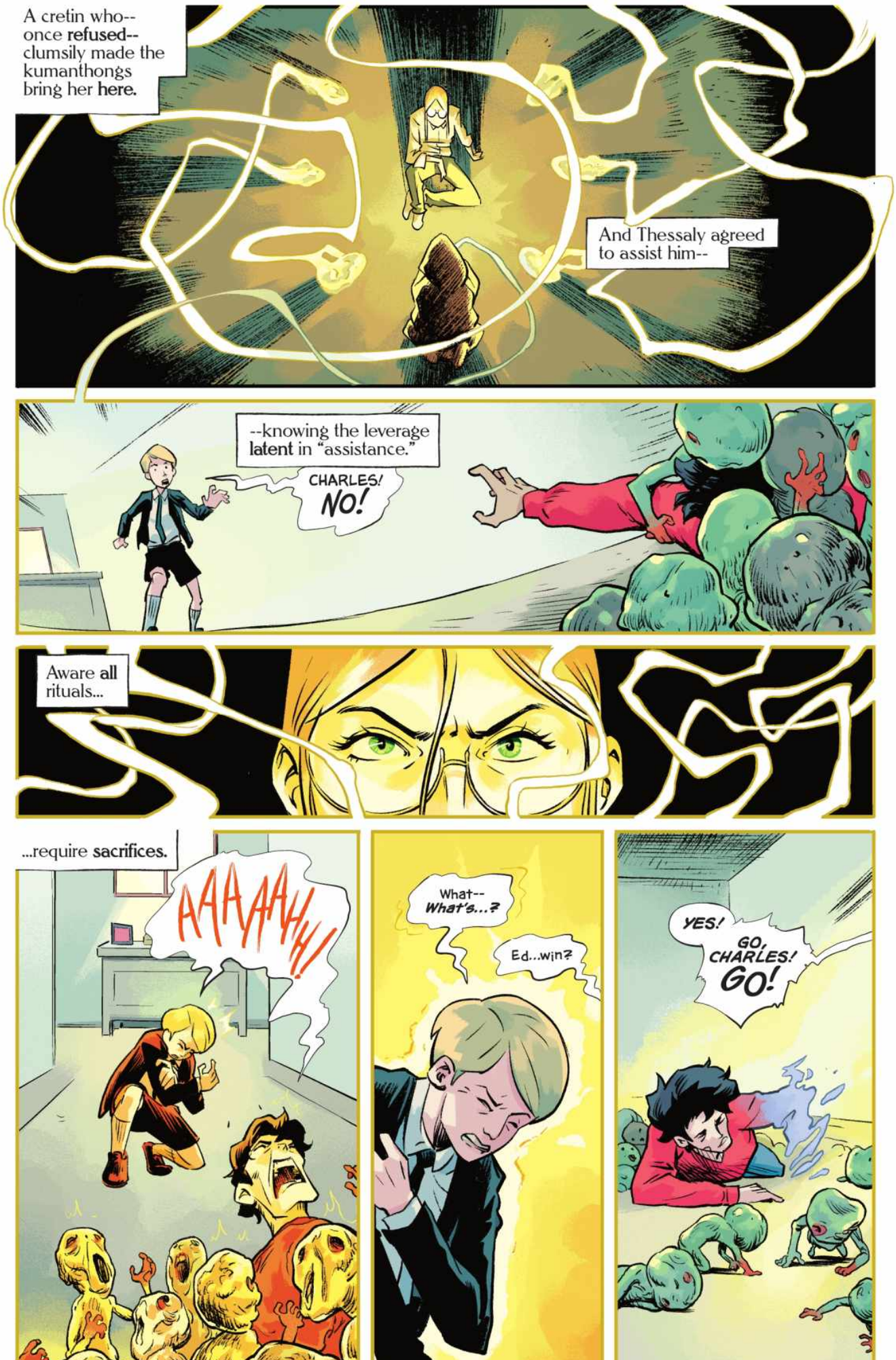
CHAPTER EIGHT:
LITTLE GOLDEN BOYS

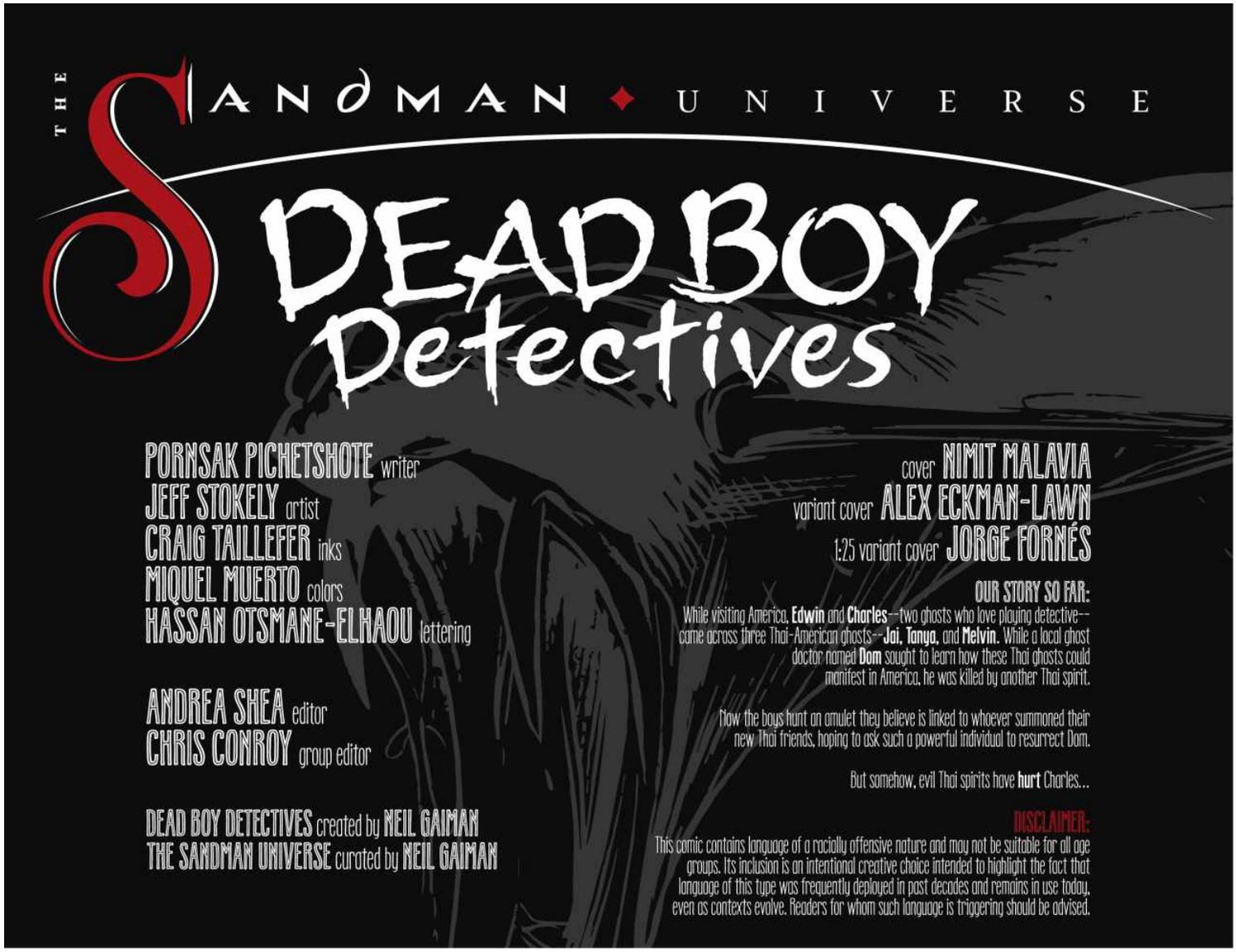

Translating to "little golden boy"--
--kumanthongs are believed to harness the spirits of innocent stillborns, allowing their wielders to tap into powerful occult forces


But not like **this.**
GET.
OFF.
ME!
Later, when Thessaly understood **how** she was captured, she would recognize its **impossibility.** Not just an **abduction** beneath everyone's **notice--**


--but because the kumanthongs' power wasn't meant to manifest like this. No, something **greater** was involved.
Something surely-- directly or no-- **linked** to those seeking to destroy her.
--ONE, TWO, THREE-- CHEESE!

Eliminate her because those forces suspected she had perceived their plans-- however inadvertently.
Forces **dwarfing** the **cretin** that had knocked on her door, **pleading** for her aid


A cretin who-- once **refused**-- clumsily made the kumanthongs bring her **here.**
And Thessaly agreed to assist him--
--knowing the leverage **latent** in "assistance."
CHARLES! NO!
Aware **all** rituals...
...require **sacrifices.**
AAAAAHH!
What-- *What's...?*
Ed...win?
YES!
GO, CHARLES! GO!

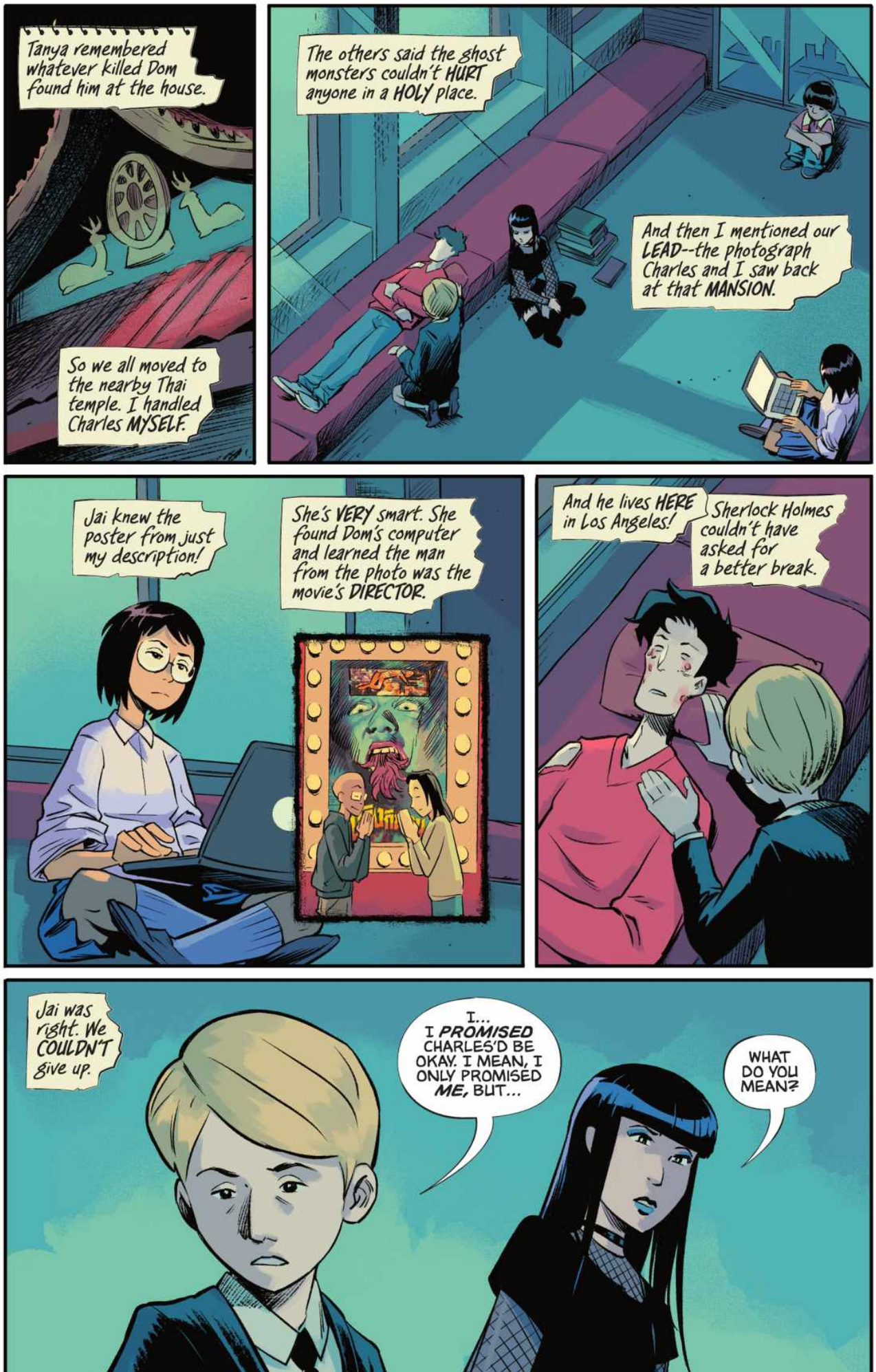

THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE
DEAD BOY Detectives
PORNSAK PICHETSHOTE writer
JEFF STOKELY artist
CRAIG TAILLEFER inks
MIQUEL MUERTO colors
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU lettering
ANDREA SHEA editor
CHRIS CONROY group editor
DEAD BOY DETECTIVES created by NEIL GAIMAN
THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE curated by NEIL GAIMAN
cover NIMIT MALAVIA
variant cover ALEX ECKMAN-LAWN
1:25 variant cover JORGE FORNÉS
OUR STORY SO FAR:
While visiting America, Edwin and Charles—two ghosts who love playing detective—came across three Thai-American ghosts—Jai, Tanya, and Melvin. While a local ghost doctor named Dom sought to learn how these Thai ghosts could manifest in America, he was killed by another Thai spirit.
Now the boys hunt an amulet they believe is linked to whoever summoned their new Thai friends, hoping to ask such a powerful individual to resurrect Dom.
But somehow, evil Thai spirits have hurt Charles...
DISCLAIMER:
This comic contains language of a racially offensive nature and may not be suitable for all age groups. Its inclusion is an intentional creative choice intended to highlight the fact that language of this type was frequently deployed in past decades and remains in use today, even as contexts evolve. Readers for whom such language is triggering should be advised.

From the journal of Edwin Paine:
I KNEW Charles'd squoosh back to Dom's. But he hasn't MOVED since those monsters... gosh, what WERE they?
And that PAIN! The monsters felt it too--
--did that make THEM ghosts as well?
COME ON, OLD FELLOW...
...GHOSTS DON'T SLEEP...
THEY DO IF THEY'RE DEAD DEAD.
BRO!
SMACK
I... I THOUGHT NOTHING COULD TOUCH YOU GUYS. I mean, IF SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN TO CHARLES...
IT'S OKAY... HE'LL BE FINE. YOU'LL SEE.
ONCE HE WAKES UP--

BUT... WE'VE BEEN WAITING ALL NIGHT...!
LOOK, THEY CAME AFTER DOM CUZ HE WAS INVESTIGATING, RIGHT?
SO WE HAVE TO BE CLOSE! TO...WHOEVER SUMMONED US! THEY CAN HELP CHARLES AND DOM!
But... DOESN'T THAT MEAN WE'D BE CLOSER TO THE, you know, MONSTERS?
And what could WE do against the ghost monsters?
DON'T WORRY, FLAT CHEST-- I'LL SAVE YOU.
NO-- MELVIN-- YOU'RE STAYING WITH TANYA--
DUDE-- YOU CAN'T SAY THAT--
WHAT?! I'M NOT BABYSITTING NO TITS AGAIN!
SHE'S BEING A BITCH--

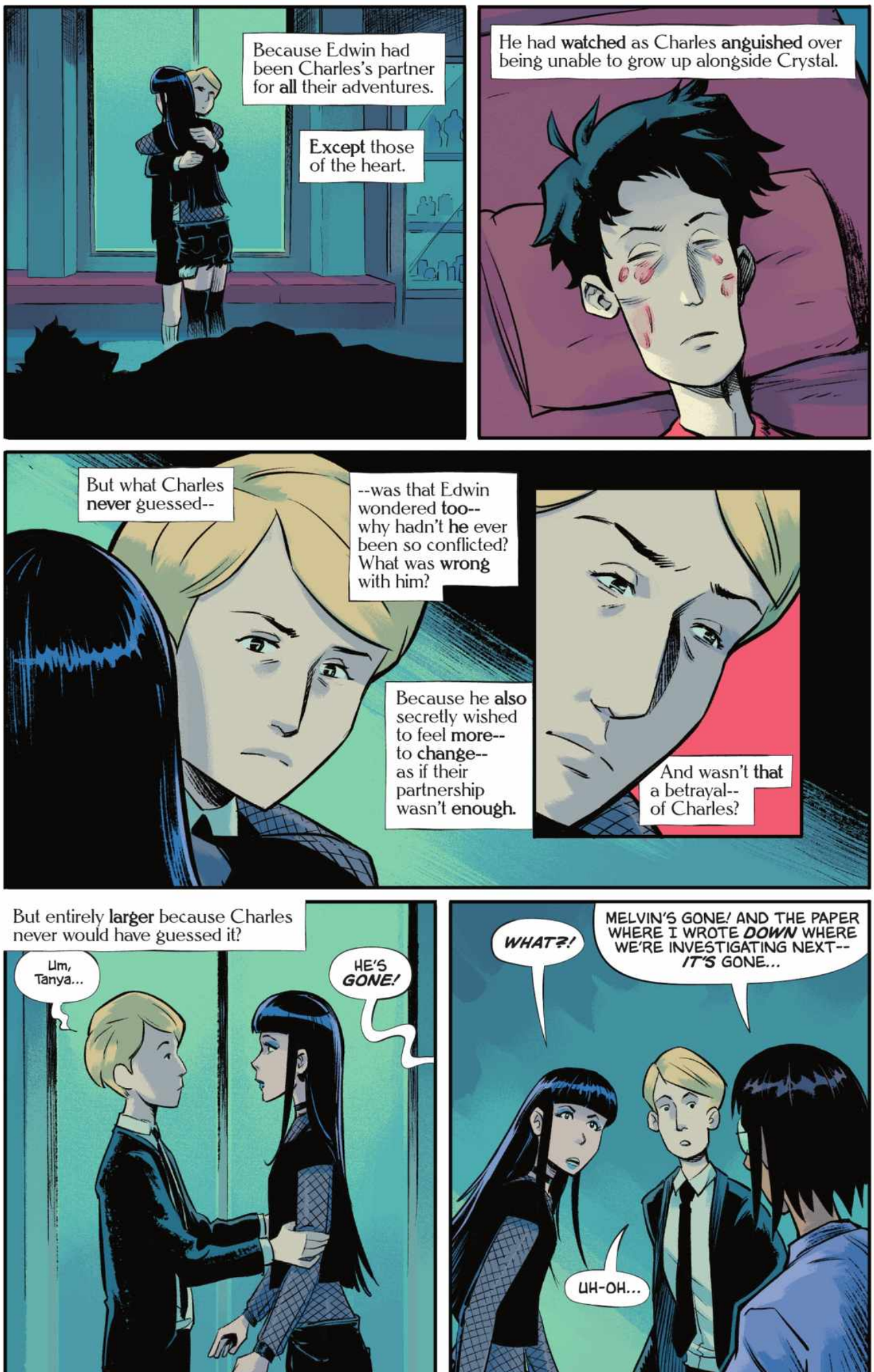
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT!
WHY NOT? IF SHE'S GONNA BE A SPAZ--
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HELP? Huh? WHAT?
TANYA REMEMBERS FAMILY STUFF. EDWIN AND CHARLES KNOW GHOST THINGS.
WHAT DO YOU DO BESIDES BE AN ASSHOLE? BESIDES BEING SOMEBODY NOBODY WANTS AROUND?
YOU JUST MAKE EVERY-THING WORSE, SO--
SHUT YOUR STUPID MOUTH UP!

Fine.


Tanya remembered whatever killed Dom found him at the house.
So we all moved to the nearby Thai temple. I handled Charles MYSELF.
The others said the ghost monsters couldn't HURT anyone in a HOLY place.
And then I mentioned our LEAD--the photograph Charles and I saw back at that MANSION.
Jai knew the poster from just my description!
She's VERY smart. She found Dom's computer and learned the man from the photo was the movie's DIRECTOR.
And he lives HERE in Los Angeles!
Sherlock Holmes couldn't have asked for a better break.
Jai was right. We COULDN'T give up.
I... I PROMISED CHARLES'D BE OKAY. I MEAN, I ONLY PROMISED ME, BUT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY... BUT WE HAD A FRIEND NAMED *CRYSTAL PALACE.* SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF FAMOUS PEOPLE, AN HONEST-TO-GOSH PSYCHIC, AND FOR A WHILE...
"...PAINE & ROWLAND DETECTIVE AGENCY'S *ONLY LIVING DETECTIVE.*
"SHE AND CHARLES BECAME *QUITE* FOND OF EACH OTHER.
"BUT THAT'S THE *PROBLEM* WITH DEATH...
"WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, YOU CAN'T GROW *UP.* EVEN WHEN EVERYONE *ELSE* DOES.
"BUT THEY *TRIED* THEIR BEST... UNTIL CRYSTAL AND HER PARENTS MOVED.
"TO *LOS ANGELES,* LAND OF FAMOUS PEOPLE LIKE THEM. AND CRYSTAL...
"...MOVED *ON.*
"AND CHARLES WAS *FINE--*"

"--UNTIL HE SAW THAT PICTURE.
"A FEW DAYS LATER, CHARLES MENTIONED A CHANGE OF PACE.
BUT SINCE ARRIVING, WE HAVEN'T SEEN CRYSTAL AT ALL.
AND I TOLD MYSELF EVERYTHING'D BE ALL RIGHT...
...SINCE I'M HERE TOO, KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM...
BUT... But now...
Um, I'M SORRY ABOUT CHARLES, but... HE'LL BE OKAY, YOU KNOW?
And as Edwin's heart fluttered holding Tanya...
...again, he felt himself betray Charles.
Because his friend had feelings for Tanya. Hadn't he outright


Because Edwin had been Charles's partner for **all** their adventures.
Except those of the heart.
He had **watched** as Charles **anguished** over being unable to grow up alongside Crystal.
But what Charles **never** guessed--
--was that Edwin wondered **too**-- why hadn't **he** ever been so conflicted? What was **wrong** with him?
Because he **also** secretly wished to feel **more**-- to **change**-- as if their partnership wasn't **enough.**
And wasn't **that** a betrayal-- of Charles?
But entirely **larger** because Charles never would have guessed it?
Um, Tanya...
HE'S *GONE!*
WHAT?!
MELVIN'S GONE! AND THE PAPER WHERE I WROTE *DOWN* WHERE WE'RE INVESTIGATING NEXT-- *IT'S* GONE...
UH-OH...

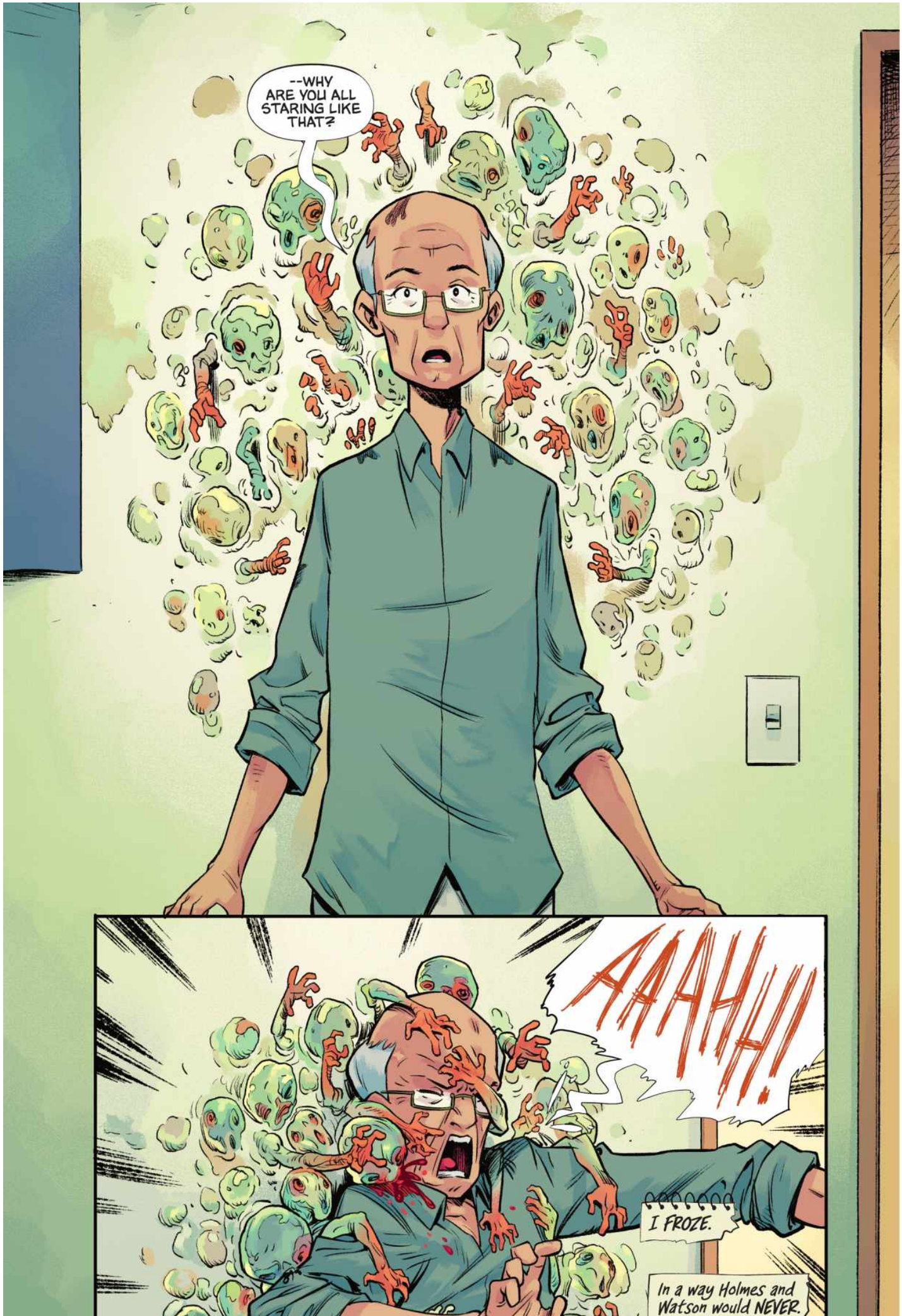
With his fair skin and upturned eyes, **Pim Patong** took after his mother.
CHAPTER NINE: PIM
His Caucasian features would prove advantageous in Thailand, leading to short stints in child modeling.
(It didn't hurt that his father was a Thai of some renown, a filmmaker with a local following.)
But when his parents relocated the family to Los Angeles, Pim struggled.
His looks were now **less** exotic, while his **thick accent** subjected him to incessant bullying.
The frustration was projected at his neighbor **Toshi**. Pim would make fun of the child's "Jap eyes."
He repeated that taunt over Toshi's frequent sobbing.
Toshi would grow to **hate** Pim, wishing he'd face **some** form of

...never believing it likely.
WHAT DO YOU DO?
SOME-BODY NOBODY WANTS
JAP
WHAT DO YOU DO?
SOME-BODY
JUST MAKE EVERYTHING
SHUT UP
YOU JUST MAKE
SHUT UP
JOB-
MAKE EVERY-THING
SHUT UP
GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY
NOBODY WANTS YOU HERE

MELVIN--
NO!
BRO!
SSSSSTOP YELLING AT ME!
YOU'RE ALWAYS YELLING NOW! YOU USSSSSED TO LISTEN TO ME BEFORE THOSE DUMB BRITSSSSS!
NOW IT'SSSS ALL ABOUT THEM!
HEY, YOU WERE HATING ON TANYA!
BOTH OF YOU JUSSSSST WANT TO GO BACK. TO HOW THINGS WERE.
BUT SSSSOME THINGS ARE BETTER NOW!
NOW NOBODY CAN HURT US. NOBODY...
NOBODY CAN DO ANYTHING TO US ANY-MORE.

...Shit.
OH GOD, I'M--I'M SORRY, OKAY?
I KNOW HOW YOU... you know...
IT DOESSSN'T MATTER. WE'RE SSSSAFE NOW.
WE'RE DEAD, AND THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO USSSS.
Nnn... will everyone shut--
AAHHH!
SEE?! THEY WON'T HURT US OR ANYBODY ELSE NOW!
DUDE! HE'S THAI TOO!
THAT'SSSS EVEN WORSE!
KLK
HUH--? WHAT--?
Oh fuck.
WHAT-- WHATEVER YOU ARE...
Please...

UM... ACTUALLY, SIR...
WHAT?!
MY-- MY WIFE HAS JEWELRY! TAKE IT-- TAKE IT ALL!
=Ahem= WOULD YOU OWN ANY AMULETS?
PREFERABLY THAI ONES?
JUST DON'T HURT MY BOY. PLEASE.
Please, please don't hurt him.
I--I couldn't live if...
...I couldn't live...
WHATEVER HE'S DONE... HE'S ALREADY LOST SO MUCH. SINCE-- SINCE SONNY DIED--
Whoa...!
YOU HAD SOMEONE DIE--?
WHAT?
Uh, yes... YES. SONNY. HE'S...
HEY--


--WHY ARE YOU ALL STARING LIKE THAT?
AAAH!!
I FROZE.
In a way Holmes and Watson would NEVER.

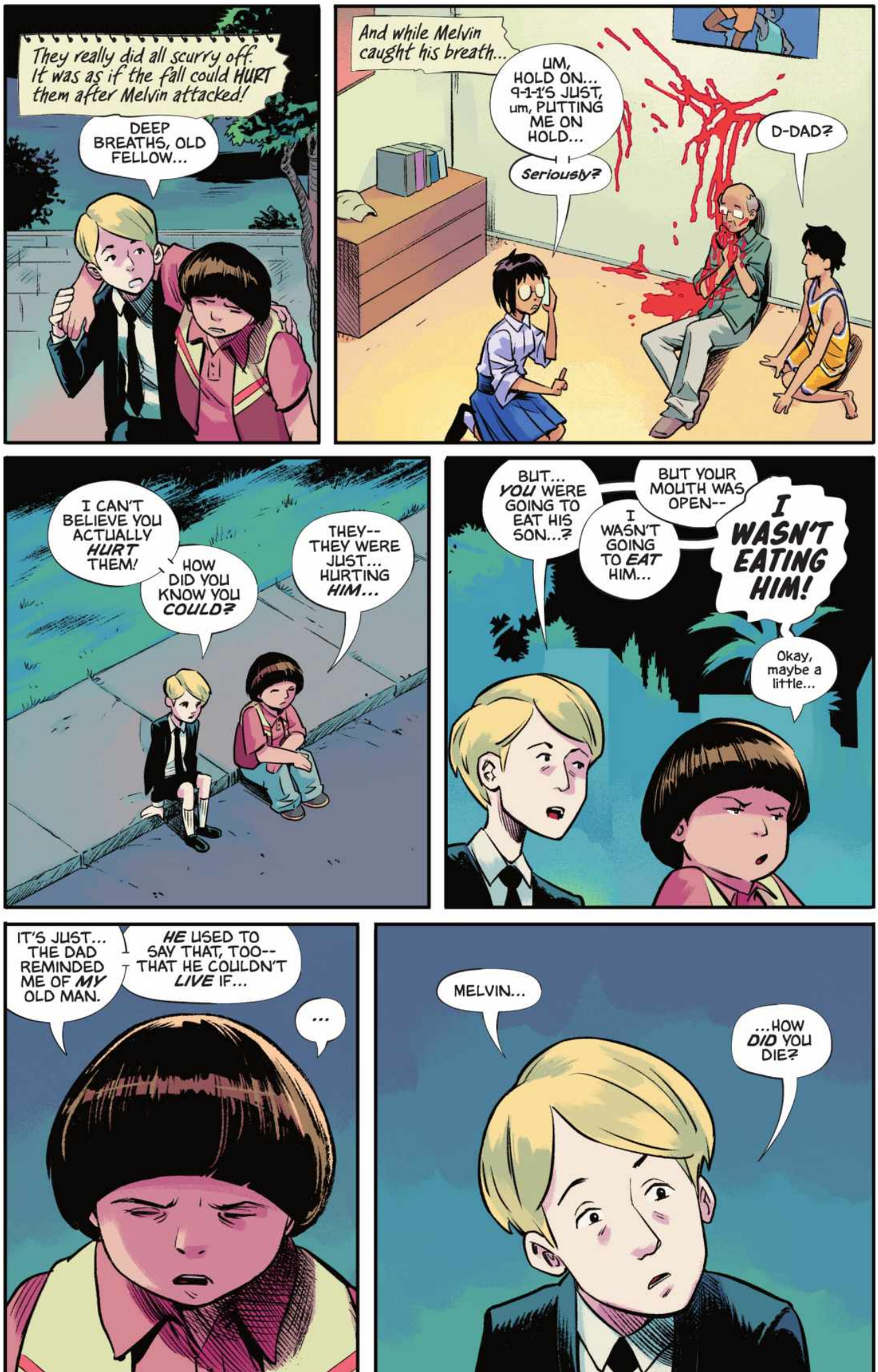
And even when I DID something...
KRASH
LET HIM GO!
There just wasn't anything we COULD do...
NO...
Pleeease...
Ssss--
...was there?
SSSTOP!
Oh shit.
MELVIN!
MELVIN--!
LOOK OUT FOR

KRASH

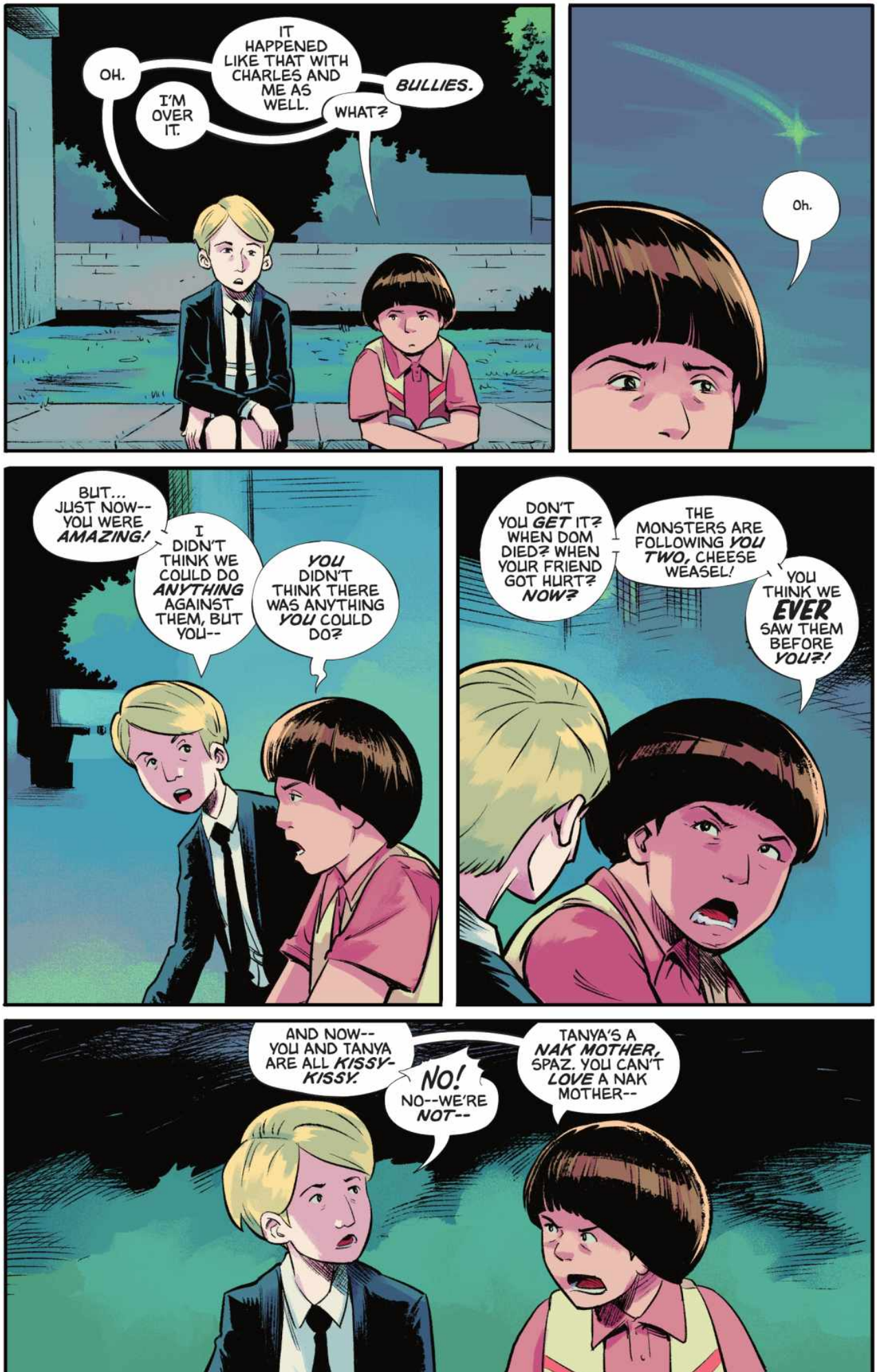
...balcony.
MELVIN!
Ow.

THEY'RE-- THEY'RE ALL RUNNING AWAY.
YOU DID IT!

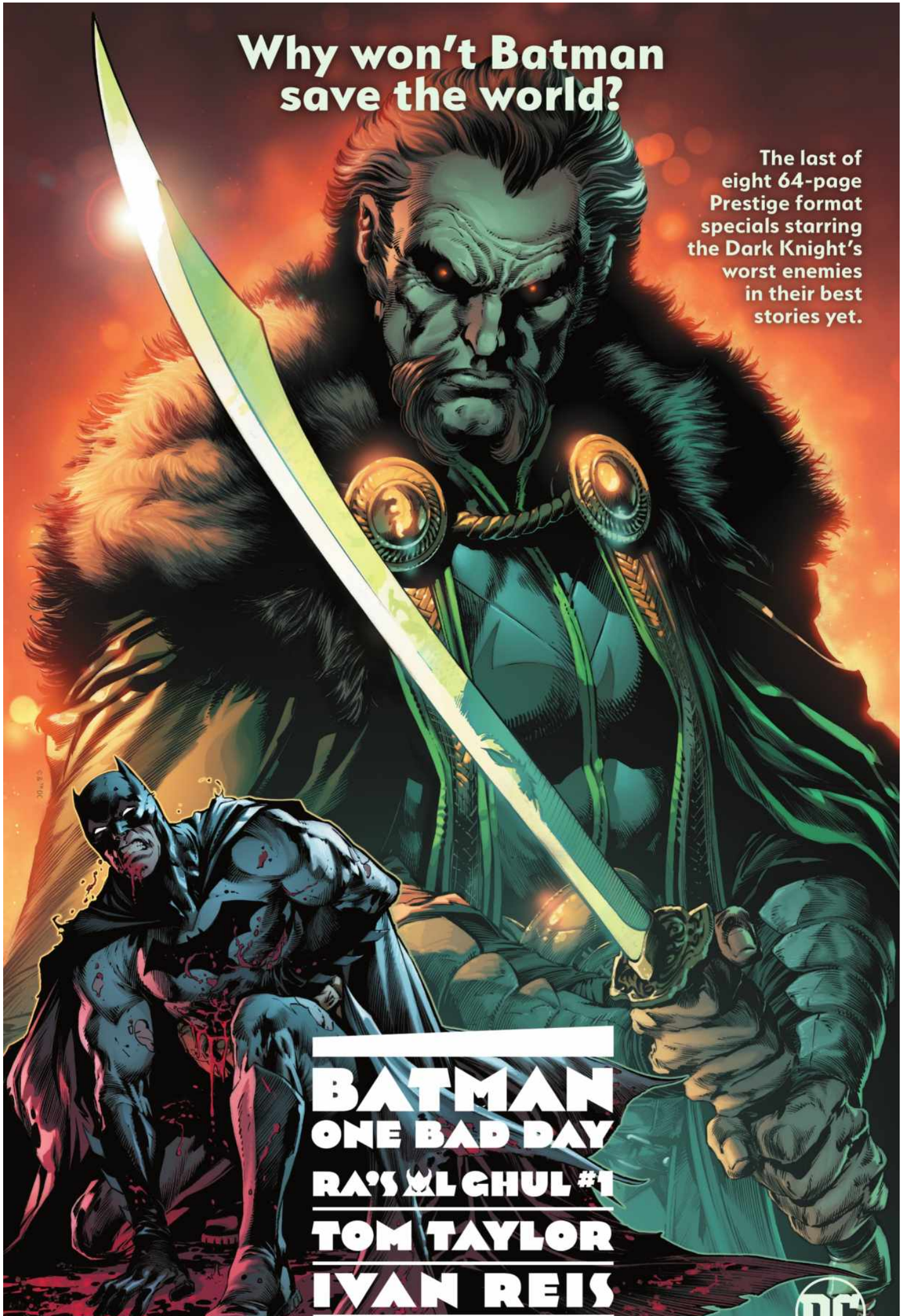
YOU HURT THEM!
Ow.


They really did all scurry off. It was as if the fall could HURT them after Melvin attacked!
DEEP BREATHS, OLD FELLOW...
And while Melvin caught his breath...
UM, HOLD ON... 9-1-1'S JUST, um, PUTTING ME ON HOLD...
Seriously?
D-DAD?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY HURT THEM!
HOW DID YOU KNOW YOU COULD?
THEY-- THEY WERE JUST... HURTING HIM...
BUT... YOU WERE GOING TO EAT HIS SON...?
I WASN'T GOING TO EAT HIM...
BUT YOUR MOUTH WAS OPEN--
I WASN'T EATING HIM!
Okay, maybe a little...
IT'S JUST... THE DAD REMINDED ME OF MY OLD MAN.
HE USED TO SAY THAT, TOO-- THAT HE COULDN'T LIVE IF...
...
MELVIN...
...HOW DID YOU DIE?

sigh
"I WAS BORN HERE, OKAY? MOM AND DAD CAME FROM THAILAND TO WORK IN THIS GRODY CHINESE DIVE.
"THEY DIDN'T EVEN SPEAK CHINESE. BUT NOBODY HERE KNEW WHAT THAIS WERE BACK THEN.
"THEIR KIDS WOULD CALL ME JAP, STEAL MY SHORTS, TRY TO SET ME ON FIRE...
Get out job stealers!
"OUR FUCKFACE NEIGHBORS THOUGHT WE WERE JAPANESE. THEY WORKED AT SOME ELECTRONICS FACTORY.
"...AND THEN IT GOT GNARLY."
"...TOLD ME NOBODY WANTED ME THERE AND ALL WE DID WAS MAKE THINGS WORSE...
SNAP


OH.
IT HAPPENED LIKE THAT WITH CHARLES AND ME AS WELL.
BULLIES.
I'M OVER IT.
WHAT?
Oh.
BUT... JUST NOW-- YOU WERE AMAZING!
I DIDN'T THINK WE COULD DO ANYTHING AGAINST THEM, BUT YOU--
YOU DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYTHING YOU COULD DO?
DON'T YOU GET IT? WHEN DOM DIED? WHEN YOUR FRIEND GOT HURT? NOW?
THE MONSTERS ARE FOLLOWING YOU TWO, CHEESE WEASEL!
YOU THINK WE EVER SAW THEM BEFORE YOU?!
AND NOW-- YOU AND TANYA ARE ALL KISSY-KISSY.
NO! NO--WE'RE NOT--
TANYA'S A NAK MOTHER, SPAZ. YOU CAN'T LOVE A NAK MOTHER--

"THEY'RE CURSED. ANYONE WHO LOVES THEM GETS CURSED TOO.
"THEM AND EVERY-BODY AROUND THEM. CUZ OF YOU--
"--WE'RE ALL CURSED NOW."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IVAN REIS

DAWN OF DC

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

HARLEY QUINN

AN INTERVIEW WITH TINI HOWARD

Harley enters the Dawn of DC era in *Harley Quinn* #28 from writer Tini Howard and artist Sweeney Boo, ushering in a new status quo for the title character when a fight with Two-Face leads to a new (legally mandated) gig. Plus, each issue features a backup story, as a revolving cast of all-star talent presents Harley's wild—and in-continuity!—dreams.

How is this new era of *Harley Quinn* different from what we've seen from the character in the past?

This is going to be—at least at the start—a character piece first and foremost. We'll be exploring a bit of Harley's rich...*inner life*, let's say. We're trying to see how she approaches the kind of lovely normalcy lots of heroes aspire to: an apartment with her girlfriend, Ivy, her pets, a (court-ordered) job... more on that later. *[Laughs]*

Which aspects of Harley are you looking to explore at the start? Just by the very nature of the character, she lends herself to a wide variety of stories (and storytelling).

When you're mentally ill like Harley (or me—let's get that out of the way), there's a level of self-sabotage that can feel *cosmically hard to overcome.*

It's a struggle that I've always wanted to write about, and Harley just reminds me of one of my favorite ways to overcome a struggle: by laughing about it. I think a Harley book should be laugh-out-loud funny in a way that maybe sometimes makes you say "ow."

What kind of journey is Harley on in this opening arc?

Well, when I landed on "Girl in a Crisis" as a title it sort of wrapped it in a bow for us. She's trying to find what normalcy is for her, and what it'll take to get there.

What's most exciting about collaborating with Sweeney Boo on this series?

Oh my god, what's not? Sweeney is turning in truly beautiful pages. There's something so confident and fully realized in all of her panels—it really gives me the chance to go nuts. Bright, beautiful, kinetic, real, but also just leaning into the *Looney Tunes* madness of a Harley Quinn comic. I'm having the best time with Sweeney!

I gotta also tease: the backups for this book are *incredible*. Some real modern legends in the mix, doing super cool work.

DON'T MISS *HARLEY QUINN* #28, ON SALE IN MARCH!

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